

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated June 15, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in light of the following remarks. The Office Action set forth both a requirement for restriction and an election of species requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Office Action states that the application discloses two distinct inventions, namely Claims 1 - 11, 27 and 28, drawn to an apparatus for transferring objects (Invention I) and Claims 12 - 26 drawn to a method of transferring objects (Invention II), with each invention having six patentably distinct species.

As previously stated, Applicant hereby requests examination on the merits of Claims 1 - 11, 27, and 28 (Invention I) and provisionally elects examination of Species A1. Applicant hereby cancels from the application the Claims 12 - 26 (Invention II) and reserves the distinct invention disclosed in those claims for subsequent divisional applications. Claims 1, 2, and 27 are generic. Claims 2 and 3 are readable on Species A1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the examination of the claims reciting the features described on page 2 - 3 of the Office Action as Species A1 - 6, would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. See M.P.E.P. §803.02. This is particularly so because the Examiner has not provided reasons why the examination of all the species would be a serious burden. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the election requirement be withdrawn and that all claimed species be examined in this application. If Examiner chooses to maintain the election requirement, however, Applicant expects Examiner, if the elected species is found allowable, to continue to examine the full scope of the elected subject matter to the extent necessary to the

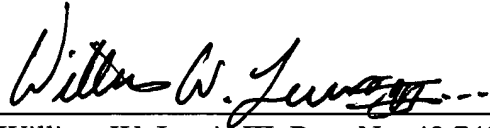
patentability of the generic claim thereof, *i.e.*, extending the search to a reasonable number of non-elected species, as is the duty according to M.P.E.P. § 803.02 and 35 U.S.C. §121.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the election requirement and the examination of all species together. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 816-417-8100 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

If there are any matters which can be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, the Office is authorized to charge same to Deposit Account No. 50-0354.

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